

The Voice

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photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Staff Sgt. Amy Brinker, S-2 noncommissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, sings "Little Bo Peep" with students of Van Bokkelen Elementary School in Severn, Md. Brinker is part of 27 soldiers from HHC who volunteer their spare time to mentor the children of the elementary school.

HHC mentors students of Local School

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, *The Voice*

Not all soldiers spend their days jumping out of a C-130 airplane or throwing grenades into the foxhole of the enemy. Some soldiers prefer to spend their time working with the future of the United States; the children of our country. Twenty-seven soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade fit that description of soldier and mentor.

Essentially, we are at the school to mentor the student and have someone for them to look up

to, said Sgt. Thomas Reger, signal intelligence analyst, HHC, 704th MI Brigade. We have some soldiers who go to the school everyday, but most go once a week during lunch.

The Van Bokkelen Mentor Program partnered with HHC, 704th MI Brigade, provides three services to the students of the elementary school. First it provides one-on-one mentoring. A soldier is paired up with a student and they work together on problems that stem anywhere from social skills to behavior problems. In addition, the mentors can help the student work on their math and reading skills.

The soldiers are allowed to

pick which kind of student they would like to help. If a soldier is strong in math or English, then they can choose to mentor a student who needs help in that subject. If a student has an emotional or behavior problem, there are mentors who can help the student with that as well, said Reger.

The second service the program offers is soldiers in the classroom. The soldier/mentor is assigned to a classroom and essentially works as the teacher's aide. The mentor helps the teacher in a variety of tasks which include; counting, math, reading assignments or even wiping a dirty face if necessary. (go to page 7, Mentors)

Tilley visits Kuwait, promises junior NCO conference

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait (Army News Service) ñ The Army will hold its first-ever junior noncommissioned officer conference in the spring at Fort Bragg, N.C., announced Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley while having breakfast with soldiers at Camp Doha, Kuwait.

When the sergeant major of the Army travels the world, he gets the word out on issues that sometimes haven't trickled down to the lower ranks.

ñ We talk to a lot of senior leadership, but there may be a disconnect about what they think versus what young soldiers think the big issues are,ñ Tilley said. ñSo we're going to invite the NCOs and their spouses and see what comes out of it.ñ

First, soldiers who want to make sure that their concerns are voiced during the conference should go through their chain of command, Tilley said. From talking to soldiers, a lot of questions they have can be answered from their chain of command, he said.

Also, he said the Internet should be used as a resource to get a lot of questions answered. If soldiers just do their research they can find out about promotion changes, when to ship their car and a host of other things, Tilley added.

Deployed to Kuwait are active-duty, National Guard and Reserve soldiers. During breakfast it was their chance to address any Army issue on their mind with the highest-ranking enlisted soldier in the Army.

Lifting the maximum age requirement to enlist on active duty and seeing more recruiting stations on Indian reservations were waves Spc. Joseph Cross from Pine Ridge, S.D., was hoping Tilley could make.

ñOne out of four Native-



photo by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley mans the serving line for soldiers deployed to Kuwait. Tilley announced to the soldiers that the Army will hold its first-ever junior noncommissioned officer conference in the spring at Fort Bragg, N.C.

American males are veterans,ñ said Cross. ñIt just seems like there would be more recruiting stations in or around reservations.ñ

Tilley agreed, and said that he would pass Cross' comment on to the U.S. Army Recruiting command. However, in regard to raising the age requirement of 35 Tilley said that he does not agree.

ñThe force needs to be a young one,ñ Tilley said. ñI'm 54, and unless I really have to go and chase down a tank, I think it's best left up to younger, more fit soldiers.ñ

However, there is discussion from Secretary of Defense Donald

Rumsfeld on allowing soldiers to stay in the military longer, Tilley said. There has only been discussion on the matter and no plans have been made, he said.

Providing insight on Army programs, and giving straight-forward answers even when the answers are not favorable is why some soldiers say that Tilley is one of the most beloved sergeants major of the Army.

Because of the serious threat in Kuwait, soldiers are locked down and unable to leave post. Boredom has kicked in for a lot of the soldiers, but when they looked to Tilley for help the response was, ñboredom is

good if it prevents us from having to send you home in a body bag.ñ

ñThere are people out there that want to kill us. We have to keep our war face on at all times.ñ

Tilley is visiting Kuwait and other countries of the Southwest Asia theater of operations just before the holidays, and he is traveling with a group of entertainers from the United States Organization. The USO tour includes JAG star Karri Turner and World Wrestling star Bradshaw.

The USO tour helps improve morale and break up monotonous days, Tilley said. He said the visits also help keep soldiers motivated.



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Commander
704th MI BDE
ATTN: IAMS-PAO (Editor, The Voice)
Fort Meade, MD 20755-5930
DSN 622-0173
Commercial (301) 677-0173

U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command 704th Military Intelligence Brigade

Commander
Col. Marcus A. Kuiper

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Major Randy Wilson

Public Affairs Officer
Ben Wigney

Public Affairs NCOIC/Editor
Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Graphic Artist
Sgt. Anishka Forbes



704th MI Brigade Mission

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade conducts continuous full-spectrum signals intelligence, computer network and information security operations directly, and through NSA to satisfy National, Joint, Combined and Army information superiority requirements.

Focus

To ensure mission accomplishment in an ethical environment while providing opportunities for individual professional growth and satisfaction, we must have:

- Competent and caring leaders,
- Well trained and fit soldiers,
- Efficient, effective unit operations,
- Unit cohesion and pride,
- Planned, orderly growth and change.

Who will be this year's Super Bowl Champions?



“I’m going to say the Green Bay Packers, because I think when you have Bret Favre on your team it’s hard to go against that.”

Spc. Michael Boddie, information systems operator analyst, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Information Management Office from Norfolk, Va.



“I’m going to go on the wild side and say the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. I don’t know why, I’m just picking them.”

Spc. Christopher Edwards, information systems operator analyst, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Information Management Office from Elizabethtown, Ky.



“I’m going to have to go with the Bucs (Tampa Bay Buccaneers). They seem like the most dominant team this season. I think they have enough skill to take it all the way this year.”

Spc. Charles Lafever, morse code interceptor, Reception and Holding Platoon, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade from Fairfax, Va.



“I think the New York Giants, because they have the best potential to win the Super Bowl. They have a new quarterback and he’s keeping them on track.”

Spc. Clint Philip, intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade from New York, N.Y.

Senior NCOs honored with Knowlton Award

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, *The Voice*

Hero. Mentor. Soldier. These words describe four non-commissioned officers who received the coveted Knowlton Award for demonstrating excellence and providing superior support to the Military Intelligence Corps in a ceremony at the Fort George G. Meade Museum, December 18.

“Each of these honorees have trained America’s sons and daughters and are willing to sacrifice the ultimate for the better of the nation,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, command sergeant major, 704th MI Brigade. “These four individuals exemplify the term ‘hero.’”

Recipients of this year’s Knowlton Award are: Command Sgt. Maj. William E. Schneider, command sergeant major, 741st MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade; Sgt. Maj. Johnnie E. Walters, sergeant major, G1, Intelligence and Security Command; Master Sgt. Franklin V. Cox, Headquarters and Operations Company, 741st MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade; and 1st Sgt. Xavier P. Walker, first sergeant, Company C, 741st MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade.

“I’m very proud of this honor,” said Cox. “In my heart, this is the highest award I’ve ever received because it exemplifies my entire career.”

Established in 1995 by the MI Corps Association (MICA), the Knowlton Award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army Intelligence in ways that stand out in the eyes of



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, command sergeant major, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, congratulates Command Sgt. Maj. William Schneider, command sergeant major, 741st MI Battalion, on winning the Knowlton Award. The Knowlton Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and superior support to the MI Corps.

the recipients, their superiors, subordinates and peers. The individuals must demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence and serve the MI Corps overtime with distinction.

“I feel very fortunate. I didn’t feel I should be mentioned in the same breath with Lt. Col. Knowlton,” said Walker. “I’m honored to receive the award.”
——— (go to page 12, Knowlton Award)

Chaplain's Corner: Running from Challenges

by Maj. David Causey
Brigade Chaplain

George ran from the fight. He had aspirations for greatness and he had dreams. He had enough talent to bring those dreams within his reach, but in the face of a menacing opponent, George ran.



George was a nineteen-year-old inmate of Saint Mary's Industrial School for boys - a Catholic reform school. The greatness he sought was as a baseball player. What was George's talent? He was a pitching sensation. Better than anybody - better than anyone except Bill Morrisette. Bill Morrisette, star-pitcher of rival-school Mount Saint Joseph, was George's opponent.

Everyone at Saint Mary's was talking about the upcoming showdown between Morrisette and George. They were tired of hearing about Morrisette's no-hitters, of how devastating he was on the mound, of how he had beaten down the best hitters of Holy Cross, Georgetown and Bucknell. Now the teams of Saint Mary's (a high school) and Mount Saint Joseph's (a college) would clash. But all attention focused on two pitchers - George and Bill Morrisette.

George was scared. The prospect of failure

and having to face his teammates was too much to bear. So, ten days before the showdown, George fled. After all, he was just a kid from the slums of Baltimore. He was just a reform school inmate. Everyone was expecting too much from him.

But George didn't get off that easy. A probation officer and night watchman tracked him down and dragged him back. Finally, George got a handle on his fear and faced the challenge. Thank God he did. For in that game, it was George who pitched a no-hitter and struck out 14 players in the process. As for Bill Morrisette, he gave up six runs, losing the game 6-0.

Whatever became of these two young men? Bill Morrisette went to the majors. His major league career lasted a total of 13 games. As for George, his major league career lasted a little longer - 22 years! Although he spent seven of his pro years as one of the best left-handed pitchers the game has ever known (92 wins against 44 losses), you probably know him as one of the most powerful hitters of all time - George Herman "Babe" Ruth. Just think of all he might have missed by running away.

What about us? Are we ever tempted to run from a fight, to flee from a challenge? What greatness will we miss if we run away? God can give us the courage to face our fights and the strength to win them. The Scripture says, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not look anxiously about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

704th Unit Ministry Team at Ft. Meade "The God Squad"

Contemporary Protestant Worship Service
Cavalry Chapel, Corner of 6th Cavalry & Simmons
Sundays, 1045 (Bible Study: 1900, Wednesdays)
Pastors: Chaplain (Maj.) Dave Causey and
Chaplain (Capt.) Mitch Butterworth

704th Unit Ministry Team
Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey (301) 677-7513
Spc. Robert Apgar (301) 677-7521
Bldg. 9828, Rm. 152

704th MI Brigade Bible Study
Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 1130-1245
Place: 741st MI BN Conference Room
Activity: Lunch (Free Anthony's Pizza and soft drinks), fellowship and study of the Bible

743rd MI at Buckley Air Force Base Religious Services

Protestant
Sunday Worship, 1000 in Mod #1, Bldg. #T-10
Singles Wednesday Bible Study, 1700 in
Mod #1 Bldg. #T-10
Wednesday Bible Study in ADF, 1800 in ADF
Conference Room C

Catholic
Saturday Confession, 1430 in MOD #1,
Bldg. #T-10
Saturday Mass, 1500 at MOD #1, Bldg. #T-10

743rd On-Site Chaplain
Chaplain (LTC) Steven Hess
(303) 677-6411
Offices Located In:
Mod #1, Bldg. #T-10 & Rm. 1356-A in ADF

Chaplain Activities

Spiritual Fitness Training "We're Going Ski-Crazy"

Breckenridge, Colo.

For 743rd MI Battalion soldiers only
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2003
Cost: No cost to soldiers/family members
POC: Capt. Zielinski, (303) 677-9090

Breckenridge, Colo.

For 743rd MI Battalion soldiers only
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2003
Cost: No cost to soldiers/family members
POC: Capt. Zielinski, (303) 677-9090

Liberty Mountain

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2003
Time: Meet at Brigade Conference Rm. 0800
Cost: No cost to soldiers/family members
POC: Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey,
(301) 677-7513/7521



704th enjoys night at Holiday Ball 2002



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Col. Marcus A. Kuiper, commander, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, entertains the crowd of soldiers, family members and civilians with his thoughts on the 704th MI Brigade's role in the war on terrorism and current events happening throughout the world. This Holiday Ball was Kuiper's first as commander of the brigade.



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

The Barbershop Quartet from the United States Army Field Band entertains the crowd at the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Holiday Ball with acappella versions of classic Christmas songs.



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

From left to right, Spc. Tamica Grundy, Sgt. Heather George, Sgt. 1st Class Willene Orr and Spc. Janice Camarillo enjoy the evening at the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Holiday Ball held at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Md.



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Santa Claus and his elves make their arrival at the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Holiday Ball. The trio was in charge of handing out the door prizes, which included anything from gift certificates to airline tickets anywhere in the U.S.

Transform your Vision into Reality...Reenlist

by Sgt. 1st Class Willene Orr
Brigade Reenlistment

It has been said iVision is not seeing things the way they are, but seeing them as they will be. That is true for all facets of life whether it be military or civilian. The previous Army slogan iBe All You Can Be parallels the above saying. There is no place comparable to the military where you can iBe All You Can Be while simultaneously making your iVision a Reality.

Our soldiers make their iVision a Reality as they choose to renew their contract. They can accomplish this through a variety of ways and in turn reap bountiful benefits that expand from one end of the globe to another.

The Department of the Army offers the privilege of reenlisting within the active Army or transferring or enlisting into the reserve component to soldiers who have maintained a record of acceptable performance. Our soldiers are afforded the opportunity to reenlist, extend under the Bonus Extension and Retraining Program (BEAR), transition into the Reserve or apply for special programs such as Green to Gold, Officer Candidate School and the United States Military Academy Preparatory School.

Below are some of the options available to soldiers desiring to make their iVision a Reality.

Option E-1 Regular Army Reenlistment

Qualified soldiers may reenlist from two to six years and will be assigned in accordance with the needs of the Army. Soldiers in the rank of Staff Sgt. or higher who have ten or more years Active Federal Service (AFS) will be restricted to an indefinite term of reenlistment to their retention control point.

Option E-2 Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment

Initial term and mid-career soldiers, who are Staff Sgt. or below may reenlist for two to six years. For continental U.S. based soldiers, this option guarantees up to six months stabilization from date of reenlistment for soldiers who reenlist for two years. It guarantees up to 12 months from reenlistment date for those who reenlist for 3 three years. For those who reenlist for four to six years, this option guarantees up to 12 months stabilization from the expiration of time of service date.

Option E-3 Army Training Reenlistment

Qualified soldiers, Staff Sgt. and below, with less than 10 years of AFS may reenlist for three to six years. Guarantees to qualified soldiers a choice for new primary military occupational specialty, skill qualifications identifiers, additional skill identifiers, language training, or Airborne training.

(1) Initial Term (serving on 1st enlistment) eligibility:
a. Sgt. or above serving in balanced or shortage military occupational skill.

b. Cpl./Spc.(P) serving in a balanced or shortage MOS with general testing score of 105 or higher.

c. Cpl./Spc. non (P) serving in a balanced or shortage MOS with GT of 110 or higher.

d. Cpl./Spc. (P) with less than 3 years active service at ETS regardless of GT.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Willene Orr

Capt. Carl Lamar, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, reenlists Sgt. Heather George, personnel administrative specialist, HHC, 704th MI Brigade, at the Fort George G. Meade Museum.

(2) Mid-career as prescribed in the latest in and out calls.

Option E-4 Overseas Assignment Reenlistment

Initial or mid-career soldiers, who are Staff Sgt. or below with less than 10 years of AFS may reenlist for three to six years. Additionally, soldiers who reenlist for a long tour area must reenlist for a minimum of four years.

Option E-5 CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment

This option guarantees assignment for at least 12 months at the CONUS station of choice for soldiers reenlisting for three six years. Initial or mid-career soldiers, who are Staff Sgt. or below, may reenlist for this option.

(1) Initial Term (serving on 1st enlistment) eligibility:

e. Non-promotable Cpl./Spc. with GT 100 or higher

f. Promotable Cpl./Spc. or higher without regard to GT

(2) Mid-career (serving on 2nd or subsequent enlistment) eligibility:

a. Promotable Cpl./Spc. with 525 or more

promotion points and six or less years AFS at ETS

b. Sgt. with less than seven years AFS at ETS

c. Promotable Sgt. with 650 or more points

d. Staff Sergeant

Option E-6 Overseas with Return

Initial or mid-career soldiers, who are Staff Sgt. or below with less than ten years of AFS may reenlist for three to six years. Additionally, soldiers can request return assignments to following locations only: Fort Hood, Fort Bragg, Fort Campbell, Fort Stewart, Fort Drum, Fort Carson, Fort Riley, Fort Polk, Fort Lewis or Europe.

Bonus Extension and Retraining Program (BEAR)

Soldiers who are Staff Sgt. or below currently serving in an overstrength/balanced MOS can migrate into a critically short bonus MOS. Soldiers applying for the BEAR program must also be eligible for reenlistment.

The 704TH Retention Team

704th MI Brigade

Sgt. 1st Class Willene Orr
(301) 677-0164

741st MI Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Kirkland K. Thomas
(310) 677-0157

742nd MI Battalion

Staff Sgt. Joseph Collins, Jr.
(301) 677-0117

743rd MI Battalion

Staff Sgt. Shelly R. Demetrelis
(303) 677-5048

Mentors...from page 1

“This program does a tremendous amount for our students, many of them come from broken homes,” said Steven Elsis, guidance counselor, Van Bokkelen Elementary School.

“The mentoring program provides emotional, psychological and academic support to our students. These students would not normally have the opportunity to meet people from outside the school or the mentors from the 704th,” said Elsis. “I think mentoring helps students with self-esteem and improves their social skills.”

HHC provides Van Bokkelen Elementary School a third service.

“On Veterans Day we had a flag raising ceremony with our honor guard. We will provide the school with a Santa Claus for Christmas and our mentors’ students will be attending the HHC potluck Christmas party,” said Reger.

“I started this program two-and-a-half months ago with just myself and now we are up to 27 volunteers from HHC alone,” said Reger. “The program has been going on for years, but tapered off quite a bit after the 9/11 attacks; basically it’s a reincarnation of a program that used to happen.”



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Sgt. Thomas Reger, signal intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, mentors fourth grader David Dock at the Van Bokkelen Elementary School in Severn, Md. Reger along with 26 other soldiers from HHC, 704th MI Brigade spend their free time mentoring the children with emotional, psychological and academic support.



Retired with Honors

Pictured from left to right at their November 22, 2002, Retirement Ceremony: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Charles Sansone, Army Technical Control and Analysis Element liaison to the NSA's Collection Strategies and Requirements Center, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, serving for 30 years; 1st Sgt. Scott Walter, senior enlisted representative, NSCC, 741st MI Battalion, serving for 22 years and Sgt. 1st Class James Robinson, senior enlisted representative for the Signal Support to Information Operations branch, 741st MI Battalion, serving for 20 years.

Around the Army

Captains get Soldiers' Medals for saving life

YONGSAN, GARRISON, Korea (Army News Service) -- A 6th Cavalry Brigade soldier received the Army's highest award for peace-time heroism for saving a Korean woman's life.

Capt. David DeMartelaere, who was S-4 of the 1-43rd Air Defense Artillery at the time of the rescue, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for helping save Shin-eh Lee, a Korean national, from her burning car in a Dec. 10, 2000 accident.

Capt. Edward Worthington, commander, headquarters, 6th Cavalry Brigade, who was with DeMartelaere at the time of the accident, received the Soldier's Medal this summer for his part in the rescue.

Lee and a friend were driving on Route 1 near Osan Air Base when a drunk driver crossed into their lane and crashed into their car head on. DeMartelaere and Worthington, who were also driving on the road, stopped to help.

"Right after we stopped, one of the cars just became a big ball of fire," said DeMartelaere. "The other car was smoking from a fire in the engine. Someone was still alive because we heard the sounds of her choking on the smoke. We knew we had to get her out immediately."

The two soldiers were unable to break the windshield, according to DeMartelaere, so they

bent the door in half by ripping down on the top of the door. They were then able to pull Lee from the wreckage.

All three of the other accident victims died on impact.

DeMartelaere, who is currently stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas, said that no other vehicles stopped to help the crash victims, but he still doesn't feel like a hero.

"I just did what I thought was necessary for the situation and for saving her life," he said. "My safety wasn't even a consideration; I was just concerned about getting her out of there."

Worthington said his only thought was also getting the survivor out. "The biggest thing was getting her out of the burning vehicle," he said. "I knew if we couldn't pull her from the wreckage she was going to burn."

"Receiving the medal was a great honor," Worthington continued. "I just wish it could have been under other circumstances because three people did die."

Col. Ronald Buffkin, commander, 6th Cavalry Brigade, gave DeMartelaere the medal, which was awarded by the president of the United States, in a ceremony Dec. 2 at Suwan Air Base, Korea.

"It was an honor and privilege to pin a medal

on a soldier for heroism," Buffkin said.

Buffkin also said the rescue exemplified the U.S. Army's commitment to the Korean people.

"The fact that two U.S. officers would risk their lives for people they didn't know shows their commitment and courage," Buffkin said. "If they didn't have an affinity for the people of Korea, they would not have risked their lives."

Worthington, who visited Lee in the hospital and at her house after the accident, expressed a view similar to his commander's.

"I appreciate the hardships the Korean people have gone through for their democracy," Worthington said. "They are an amazingly resilient people."

Lee, who owns a restaurant near Osan, had her legs crushed and suffered several broken ribs in the accident. Even though she spent five months in the hospital, she fully recovered and is thankful to the soldiers.

"I believe most soldiers are like (DeMartelaere and Worthington), armed with the courage to sacrifice," Lee said in a statement.

"Meeting guardian angels like this will be remembered as a priceless gift," she said.

"Wherever they go, whatever they do, I pray for their happiness and well-being."

Joint Resolve tests ability to reinforce Bosnia

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia (Army News Service) -- U.S. soldiers and international military forces serving in the Balkans concluded a five-day exercise last week designed to demonstrate an ability to reinforce peacekeeping contingents throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

British Operational Reserve Forces of the 1st Battalion, Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales), serving in Kosovo, deployed to Bosnia and trained with Stabilization Force, or SFOR troops, as part of Exercise Joint Resolve XXVII.

This quarterly exercise involves the rapid deployment of a tactical reserve to respond to potential threats affecting the safe and secure environment in Bosnia. Despite a restructuring in the composition of peacekeeping forces, SFOR still maintains a robust ability to respond to military contingencies in the community, officials said.

"Joint Resolve is a very ambitious military exercise that enhances our ability to rapidly respond across boundaries," said Brig. Gen. John T. von Trott, Multinational Division and host commander. "The cooperative efforts of all the multinational elements paid off and ultimately benefits all of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Working side-by-side, joint patrols made their way throughout MND (North), manning checkpoints, inspecting weapons storage sites, and promoting the turn-in of illegal weapons by civilians.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Around the Army

Soldiers visit AFRH, support payroll deductions

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ñ Every enlisted service member and warrant officer in the military donates to the upkeep of the Armed Forces Retirement Homes in Washington, D.C., and Mississippi. Only a handful, though, have taken the opportunity ñ like a group did last week ñ to see where the money goes.

Thirty-four soldiers from the Adjutant General Branch of Army Personnel Command visited the home in Washington, D.C., during the holiday season. A number of the soldiers said they couldn't wait to see how the home spends the annual \$7 million received from their monthly 50-cent payroll deduction.

The homes also get about \$32 million annually from fines and forfeitures service members pay in disciplinary actions such as those resulting from Article 15s.

Even with this income, the D.C. facility operates at an annual deficit of \$10 million to \$12 million, officials said. It plans to sell 49 acres of mostly vacant land nearby to offset the deficit.

“I’ve always wondered where the money went that comes out of my check, but being able to sit down over lunch and talk to people who helped to mold America into what it is today was a great experience,” said Sgt. 1st Class Benita Jeffrey-McKensie, a unit supply noncommissioned officer. “This place has a lot of history, and helped me regain sight of why we serve.”

“I spent 30 years in a segregated Army,” said Cornelius Jackson, a retired Army veteran at the home who remembers fighting in what he called the black Army. “I fought in World War II and the Korean War. We fought separately. We lived separately. Now everyone here from that era lives together, eats together and talks with each other.”

The camaraderie between the residents is only one reason the veterans say they couldn't ask for too much more from the home. Formerly known as the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, the D.C. facility accepts veterans from all services, has a golf course, bowling alley and a private bus that takes its residents to malls, museums and race tracks.

“I love it here. This is very close to being heaven,” said Edna Ast, who served in the Army Air Force



photo by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Crawford, the public affairs professional development noncommissioned officer, talks to Armed Forces Retirement Home resident Wilfred McCarty. Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Hughes, a professional development Army Band noncommissioned officer, also listened as McCarty told him that he has lived at the home longer than any of the other residents.

during World War II.

The retirement home in Mississippi has similar accommodations and was once called the U.S. Naval Home. Both homes were built in the 1800s.

“Anyone who thinks that these people are here waiting to die definitely has the wrong perception of this place,” said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Garza, a unit supply noncommissioned officer. “This facility is great, and the residents are enjoying themselves. I’m happy to see this because they served their country and they deserve it.”

“The Armed Forces Retirement Homes are benefits most soldiers don't think about, but ironically enough they all seem to remember the payroll deduction,” said Jean Schaefer, the AFRH public affairs officer. “Everything they need to live a full life is here ñ banks, a Post Exchange, post office, lounge, medical facilities and transportation to hospitals. We have a community within a community.”

More of the troops who are currently enlisted in the Army should make the AFRH a number-one stop in the capital area, Garza said. “It keeps the

bond going, and it's a learning experience.”

About 1,000 people take a tour of the premises annually and spend an afternoon having lunch and talking to veterans, Schaefer said. The majority of tours are by active-duty troops, she said, but political and community groups also visit.

Visits are cherished by the residents and Ast said that she would never get tired of troops invading her home for conversation.

“I love to hear about how the service has changed since I was in. The only thing that hasn't changed is how the Army teaches you that you can do anything,” Ast said.

“You can be assigned to a place you've never been before, to do a job that you've never done before,” said Ast. “But they teach you everything you need, and you're fine.”

About 1,030 people reside in the D.C. home. Eligible residents are veterans that served 20 years or more as enlisted service members on active duty, and warrant officer or officer who served more than 50 percent of their time enlisted.



Taking Care of the Children

MEDCAP exercise gives free medication and literature to needy

photo by
Tech. Sgt. Steve Faulisi
U.S. Air Force

Spc. Jessica Shank, Task Force 44, 339th Combat Support Hospital, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, dispenses de-worming medication to a Afghan boy as Sgt. Christina

Richey, same unit, holds him still during a Medical Civil Assistance Program (MEDCAP) held at the village of Deh Baha Ali Dec. 3, 2002. MEDCAPs are providing free medical and dental care to some of the local villages in Afghanistan. They also provide literature on the dangers of unexploded ordnance and why the U.S. is in Afghanistan.

Around Town

The Birthplace of American Railroading

Baltimore museum possesses largest collection of early American locomotives and railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, *The Voice*

Lying quietly in the working class portion of Baltimore, is one of the most extensive museums that connected the United States in the early days of the industrial revolution.

The Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad Museum, located in the heart of downtown Baltimore possesses one of the oldest and most comprehensive railroad collections, historic buildings and assortment of small artifacts in the Western Hemisphere.

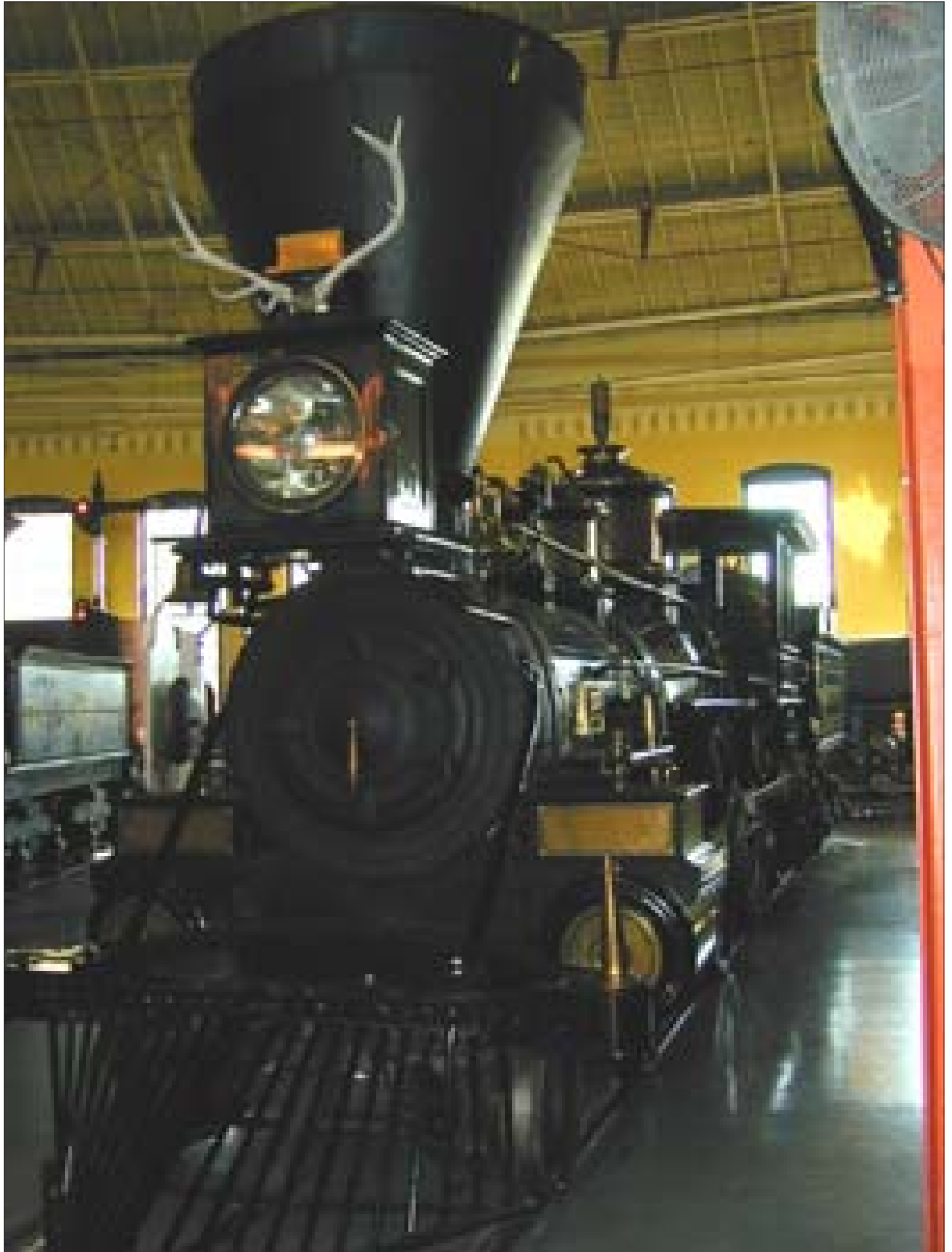
The museum is a prominent landmark in Baltimore occupying the exact physical location where railroading was first established in America and where the B&O Railroad Company grew and developed.

Exhibits in the museum date back to the very first day of the B&O Railroad with the laying of the first stone on July 4, 1827, which catapulted America into the modern age of transportation.

With every turn in the museum, visitors can see how the days of the Pony Express were lost with the emmergence of these Iron Horses that roared across the land creating cities wherever their steel hooves landed.

In additon to the mighty steel horses, visitors can marvel at the historic photographs, textiles, lanterns, dining car china, silver, as well as communication devices, signals and shop equipment.

To reach the museum from I-95, take I-395 North and bear right onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Continue north until reaching Lombard Street. Turn left on to Lombard Street and proceed west for a few blocks until reaching Poppleton Street. Turn left on to Poppleton Street and continue south until reaching the museum entrance gate, which is across Pratt Street.



courtesy photo

The "William Mason," which appeared in the movie the Wild Wild West is one of the featured locomotives at the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) Railroad Museum. The museum sports an extensive collection of early American locomotives and railroad artifacts.

The B&O Railroad Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve,

Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Admission to the museum is; Adults-\$9.00, Seniors-\$8.00,

Children-\$6.00 and children under two are free.

For more information go to www.borail.org

SAFETY BRIEF: CARBON MONOXIDE

by Maj. Gregory James
Safety Officer

With the onset of cold weather, many of us will soon be switching on our heating systems.



Beware! If you have not maintained your heating equipment, this single act can kill you.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and poisonous gas that results from incomplete combustion of fuels such as natural or liquefied petroleum gas, oil, wood, and coal. It can kill you and your family. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), CO poisoning associated with fuel-burning appliances kills nearly

300 people in their homes each year.

CO is so dangerous you cannot take anything for granted. The old maxim, if something can go wrong, it will, applies equally to home heating appliances. Be proactive! Use the risk management process to prevent poisoning. Here's how:

Identify hazards

Inspect your heating system for such things as a faulty furnace/heater, closed fresh make-up air return, dirty clogged filters, blocked return air registers, inadequate ventilation, blocked chimney flue, or inoperative CO alarms. Certain plastic furnace vent pipes have been identified in a recall by CPSC and require replacement.

Assess risks

CO is likely to cause death as exposure time and concentration increases.

Make risk decisions

Don't operate your heating system until you're absolutely certain it is fully operable, or preferably, had a qualified technician inspect it.

Implement controls

Heed the manufacturer's recommendations. Ensure the system is properly maintained, both preventive and corrective maintenance. Clean or replace dirty filters regularly. Do not allow furniture to block air registers.

Supervise

Be sensitive to health changes (unexplained headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue). If you suspect you or someone in your house is experiencing CO exposure or poisoning, get fresh air immediately.

Open doors and windows, call 911, and go to an emergency room.

Don't overlook the hazards associated with cars, trucks, motor homes, boats, and other recreational vehicles. Three friends on a winter hunting trip died when the heater they were using in a tightly closed camper produced excess CO.

Generators in boats and recreational vehicles can cause the same result. Never use a hibachi or barbecue grill inside a home, vehicle, or garage.

Never leave your vehicle running in the garage. Do not assume opening the garage door is sufficient protection.

Finally, install one or more CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instruction. Units are designed to sense low levels of CO and sound a loud audible alarm. Units with digital readouts are best. Test the alarm every month. One of these could save your life!

CIVILIAN'S CORNER: REFLECTION OF 2002

by Sam Jones
Brigade Senior Civilian

Well, we made it through yet another year. We have a lot of new faces in our ranks, but unfortunately that means we have many employees move on to other adventures.



During 2002, Ms. Shelley left for a new and exciting position with the 902nd. We were very successful though in bringing on the following new employees; Mr. Choi, Mr. Harkins, Mr. Hobgood, and Mr. Monteiro. We also gained a new Department of the Army Intern, Mr. Muessig.

The year, 2002, was also very good to our employees in the area of promotions. Congratulations to the following personnel on their promotion; Mr. Hardy GG-13, Mr. H. Harris GG-13, Ms. V. Harris GG-11, Mr. Jones GG-15, Mr. Pittelli GG-12, Mr. Steinen GG-13, Mr. Teal GG-13, and Mr. Vanacker GG-11.

Education and Training

We had another excellent year for civilian training. We were able to send over 15 personnel to various training events and spend our entire civilian training budget prior to the end of the 3rd quarter.

Many other local training opportunities were also taken advantage of. I am also happy to tell you that we were able to send ten employees to 12 different OPM training courses at the Western Management

Development Center in Colorado, the Eastern Management Development Center in West Virginia, and the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Va. These centers are dedicated to building the special brand of leadership required by America's dynamic and diverse democracy. Their goal has always been to keep pace with the changing needs and aspirations of public sector leaders and the society we all serve.

The programs form a comprehensive set of services for those embarked on the leadership journey. We will be sending at least eight employees to OPM training this year and several others to various training events throughout the year. It should be another great year for training in 2003.

Thrift Savings Plan

Well, as most of us know, the overall stock market did not fare too well in 2002. The C Fund lost about 22%, the S Fund about 18% and the I fund about 16%. The G fund on the other hand gained about 5% and the F fund about 10%.

There are a lot of new items for the Thrift Savings Plan for 2003 that you should read up on. Two new items are: Catch-up contributions -- The President signed legislation (P.L. 107-304) on November 27, 2002, authorizing a program of catch-up contributions for TSP participants age 50 and over.

For 2003, the maximum additional allowable amount that can be contributed will be \$2,000. This program is planned to be implemented mid-2003. The program will be implemented via payroll deductions and will require employing agencies to make some changes in their personnel and payroll systems before it can go into effect.

Tax credit If you participated in the TSP during

2002, you may be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$1,000 on your Federal income tax return (or up to \$2,000 if married filing jointly).

This benefit, called the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (formerly known as the Saver's Tax Credit), is available to participants with an adjusted gross income of no more than \$50,000 if married filing jointly, \$37,500 if head of household, or \$25,000 if single or married filing separately. The amount of the tax credit may be offset by any taxable distribution paid directly to you from the TSP.

For more information about this tax credit, consult your tax advisor or refer to IRS Form 8880.

Pay Raise among First Order of Business.

The new Congress gets to work the first week of January facing the need to deal with budget issues left over from the previous Congress. Among them, the still unresolved 2003 general schedule pay raise. An interim funding measure will expire January 11, meaning that some action must be taken by then, if only to enact the latest of the series of such measures that have kept the government funded since the current fiscal year started last October 1.

As things currently stand, GS employees are due a 3.1 percent across-the-board raise effective with the first full pay period of the new calendar year.

However, advocates of a 4.1 percent increase will move to have that figure enacted, either as part of a regular appropriations bill or as part of another stopgap funding measure.

If a 4.1 percent raise is enacted, the money for the additional percentage point likely would be designated as locality pay. That would mean raises would vary by locality.

Knowlton Award...from page 3

The Knowlton Award is named after Lt. Col. Thomas Knowlton, who served with the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Having gained the trust and admiration of Gen. George Washington, Knowlton was given a group of men from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts who were known as Knowlton's Rangers. In every engagement with the enemy, Knowlton was on the front line encouraging, leading and showing his Rangers where to go.

Deemed the first military intelligence professional, the admiration he earned from his peers and his superiors, the military genius displayed at Breedis Hill and Harlem Heights, the love and respect he gained from his soldiers and the honor with which he served have made him a model for all MI Corps soldiers to emulate.

"This award is a culmination of everything you've done in your career," said Walters. "I stand in front of you humbled and honored that the senior leaders nominated me for this award."



(Pictured above) Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, command sergeant major, 704th MI Brigade, congratulates Sgt. Maj. Johnnie Walters, G1 sergeant major, Intelligence and Security Command, on winning the Knowlton Award.

(Pictured to the right) Master Sgt. Franklin Cox, Headquarters and Operations Company, 741st MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, proudly displays his Knowlton Award with his wife, Angela, and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, command sergeant major, 704th MI Brigade.



photos by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, command sergeant major, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, congratulates 1st Sgt. Xavier Walker, first sergeant, Company C, 741st MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, on winning the Knowlton Award.



704th Military Intelligence Brigade



VISION STATEMENT

Be the premier Army team providing full-spectrum signals intelligence and operational support to warfighters and national command authorities

“HERE AND EVERYWHERE.”

